

In The Claims:

1. (Original) A method of controlling a vehicle comprising:
determining a straight position of the trailer using a trailer sensor during forward motion of the vehicle; and
controlling the vehicle to maintain the trailer in the straight position.
2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the trailer sensor comprises a hitch sensor.
3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the trailer sensor comprises a reverse aid sensor.
4. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 3 wherein the trailer sensor further comprises a locating plate coupled to ~~[[the]]~~ a trailer tongue.
5. (Original) A method as recited in claim 4 wherein the locating plate comprises a locating hole therethrough, said locating hole aligned with said tongue.
6. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the trailer sensor comprises a camera.
7. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein controlling the vehicle comprises performing the step of controlling the vehicle during when the vehicle is moving in straight reversing direction.
8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7 wherein straight reversing is determined from a reverse signal and a steering wheel angle signal.
9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising generating a reverse direction signal corresponding to a reverse direction of the vehicle.
10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9 wherein generating a reverse direction signal comprises generating a reverse direction from a shift lever.

11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9 wherein generating a reverse direction signal comprises generating a reverse direction from a push button.

12. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9 wherein generating a reverse direction signal comprises generating a reverse direction from a transmission controller.

13. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9 wherein generating a reverse direction signal comprises generating a reverse direction from a wheel speed sensor.

14. A method as recited in claim 9 further comprising selecting a trailer direction from a manual input.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the manual input comprises a turn-signal lever.

16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said controlling comprises generating brake-steer.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for controlling an automotive vehicle having a trailer and a primary steering actuator comprising:

a secondary steering actuator generating a signal indicative of a desired trailer turn direction;

reverse signal means generating a reverse signal corresponding to a reverse direction of the vehicle; a trailer position sensor generating a trailer position signal;

a controller coupled to the secondary steering actuator, the reverse signal means and the trailer position sensor, said controller programmed to brake-steer the vehicle to maintain the vehicle in the desired trailer turn direction.

18. (Original) A system as recited in claim 17 wherein the secondary steering actuator comprises a turn signal actuator.

19. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 17 wherein the secondary steering actuator comprises a ~~secondary~~ stalk.

20. (Original) A system as recited in claim 17 wherein the secondary steering actuator comprises a push button.

21. (Original) A system as recited in claim 17 further comprising a trailer brake system, said controller programmed to brake-steer the trailer brake system and vehicle.

22. (Original) A system as recited in claim 21 further comprising a vehicle brake system, said controller programmed to brake-steer the vehicle brake system.

23. (Original) A system as recited in claim 17 further comprising a vehicle brake system, said controller programmed to brake-steer the vehicle brake system.

24. (Original) A system as recited in claim 17 wherein the trailer position sensor comprises determining the presence of a trailer with a hitch sensor.

25. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17 wherein determining the presence of a trailer comprises determining the presence of a trailer with a reverse aid sensor.

26. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17 wherein determining the presence of a trailer comprises determining the presence of a trailer with an ultrasonic sensor.

27. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17 wherein determining the presence of a trailer comprises determining the presence of a trailer with a camera.

28. (Original) A system as recited in claim 17 wherein said means comprises a shift lever.

29. (Original) A system as recited in claim 17 wherein said means comprises a push button.

30. (Original) A system as recited in claim 17 wherein said means comprises a transmission controller.

31. (Original) A system as recited in claim 17 wherein said means comprises a wheel speed sensor.

32. (Original) A method of aligning a trailer and a vehicle comprising:
determining a position of the trailer using a trailer sensor positioned on the vehicle and a locating plate having a locating hole located on the trailer;
determining the position of the locating hole relative to the vehicle when the vehicle is reversing toward the trailer; and
displaying an indication of the position of the locating hole relative to the vehicle.

33. (Original) A method as recited in claim 32 wherein determining a position comprises determining a position relative to a hitch of the vehicle.

34. (Original) A method as recited in claim 32 wherein the trailer sensor comprises a hitch sensor.

35. (Original) A method as recited in claim 32 wherein the trailer sensor comprises a reverse aid sensor.